

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 03395 220605Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 CU-02 OPR-02 FBO-02 A-01 OC-05 CCO-00

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R 211444Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3774

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3395

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJ: STUDENT PROBLEMS IN ADDIS ABABA

1. EMBASSY HAS SEVERAL REPORTS OF ROCK-THROWING INCIDENT AT ASFA WOSSEN SECONDARY SCHOOL IN ADDIS ON 20 MARCH. INCIDENT APPARENTLY STARTED AS RESULT OF STUDENT PROTEST AGAINST "DIRG" REFUSAL TO PERMIT STUDENT COUNCIL. INCIDENT REPORTEDLY DEGENERATED INTO CLASH BETWEEN STUDENTS IN FAVOR OF IMMEDIATE RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE AND THOSE FAVORING "DIRG." WE UNDERSTAND THAT CLASH RESULTED IN ONE DEAD, NINE INJURED.

2. EMBASSY HAS SINGLE REPORT OF INCIDENT AT FERREHIWOT SCHOOL NEAR MEXICO SQUARE IN ADDIS ABABA WHERE PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS HAD JOINED CITY-WIDE PROTEST AGAINST PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES. SCHOOL HEADMASTER ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTED PRESSURE STUDENTS TO PAY
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 03395 220605Z

FEES AND RETURN TO CLASS WHEREUPON SHOUTING INCIDENT COMMENCED

WHICH QUICKLY DEGENERATED INTO RIOT RESULTING IN HEADMASTER'S BEING BEATEN TO DEATH. FSL/POL EMPLOYEE CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN EYE-WITNESS.

3. FAIRLY RELIABLE SOURCE WITH ACCESS TO RADICAL CIRCLES TOLD EMBOFF THAT THREE TIGRES CHARGED WITH ADDIS BOMBINGS AND EXECUTED WITH GENERAL TADESSE BIRU AND COL. HAILU REGASSA (ADDIS 3233) WERE IMPORTANT STUDENT LEADERS, INCLUDING EDITOR OF UNIVERSITY PUBLICATION "STRUGGLE." SOURCE BELIEVES THREE WERE GUILTY OF BOMBINGS AND WERE TURNED IN BY TEACHER AT TEFERI MAKONNEN SCHOOL WHO FORMERLY COLLABORATED WITH THEM DURING EARLY DAYS OF REVOLUTION. SOURCE ALSO BELIEVES THAT ADVERSE STUDENT REACTION COULD WELL RESULT BECAUSE OF THESE EXECUTIONS. MEMCON TO FOLLOW.

4. WE HEAR THAT ALL PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS AND 9TH AND 10TH GRADE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS REMAIN OUT ON STRIKE IN ADDIS, THE FORMER BECAUSE OF SCHOOL-FEE ISSUE (ADDIS 3315) AND LATTER BECAUSE OF STUDENT COUNCIL ISSUE PARA ONE ABOVE.
WYMAN

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